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ORIGIN OF THE COLORADO
CANYONS.

Pah-goo, a Ute Indian, relates to
George West some of the traditions of
his tribe respecting the canyon which
gave Colorado its present peculiar ap-
pearance. Pah-goo calls the Colorado
river the Toom-pinto-weep, and says
that there is an old river bed fully half a
mile deep. His forefathers had a tradi-
tion that, long years ago, they had lived
near a vast warm lake northeast of the
big river; that the country was warm,
full of big trees, big deer, and big oxen
with white horns; that big fishes and
snakes as long as a 100 lodge poles
abounded in this lake; that one day all
the big oxen began to roar together, and
that they raised such a steam from their
nostrils that the earth reeled and the sun
was obscured; that suddenly the lake
fell, and continued falling for three
seasons, and then became so much re-
duced that they knew it not any more,
but that the big lake they found had
been drained away to the south, and that
its warm waters had cut out through the
mountains the present canyon of Green
river, and of the big river (the Colorado);
and that the old bed in the Toom-pin-
weep is where the lake waters are
drained. All the big deer and the oxen
with white horns strayed away eastward
and perished in the mountains. A big
flood soon after the above occurrences
formed Grand River canyon, and after
this flood came a small race of people
who had skin canoes, and who brought
seed corn of a small kind, called in
Spanish chiquito mayas; that these
people were almost white, and that they
taught the Utes how to make good
spears and bows and earthen-ware; that
they built stone houses in the cliffs, and
cultivated pumpkins, corn and beans;
that they had silver and gold in abun-
dant, and iron tools that they had ob-
tained in the high mountains to the
northwest; that afterwards, from the
northwest, big red Indians came over to
this country and killed and drove off the
little people, who finally all went south,
as well as the big red men, who are the
Apaches, Navajos and Kiowas.

These small and nearly white people
were undoubtedly the Aztecs, who cor-
tainly wandered in the direction of Col-
orado, being driven there by the
occasional plagues which nearly depopu-
lated northern Mexico centuries ago.
Pah-goo declares that "grande algaros" (prob-
ably alligators) were found among
the Apache and Navajo Indians, but that
they all disappeared as the country be-
came drier and colder. It appears from
the traditions that melted rocks were
poured out everywhere and left the
country desolate. It is, also, of tradi-
tion that in the old river bed of the Col-
orado there is plenty of gold, which fact
was related by the Aztecs or small men.

NEW PHILADELPHIA, Ohio, December
4.—A short time since, it will be remem-
bered, brief mention was made in the
Enquirer, concerning a little child in the
family of Jos. Kinsley, near here, that
had commenced to petrify. Your cor-
respondent visited the family to-day, and
learned the following particulars with
regard to this curiosity: "The child is
about two years of age, and in the month
of July last, while it was being nursed
by its father, a sudden hardening of the
limbs was noticed. Since that time the
hardness has increased and has spread
over its entire body. The hands are bent
so that it has no use for them. The head,
neck, arms, and legs are now so hard that
not the slightest indentation can be made
upon them, nor could any petrification
be harder. The limbs of the child seem
bloodless, and are cold as marble. It
has some appetite, and at times tries to
talk. A living petrified child is con-
sidered in this section a curiosity with-
out a parallel, and hundreds of people
are flocking to Mr. Kinsley's to see this
wonder. Medical men are dumbfounded,
and can give no explanation of the sin-
gular phenomena."

As late as the year 1820 an automatic
chess-playing machine was exhibited in
London. The exhibitor offered the figure
and machinery to the inspection of the
audience, and then called for the best
chess-player in the room, who was in-
variably beaten. The secret of the au-
tomaton's skill was subsequently dis-
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inside the figure. But this was merely
the revival of an old trick of the Egyp-
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"when Bishop Theophilus broke to
pieces the statues at Alexandria, he found
some which were hollow and placed in
such a manner against the wall that a
priest could slip unperceived behind
them and speak to the ignorant populace
through their mouths."—[Chicago Trib.

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THE PIOCHE WEEKLY RECORD.

VOL. XIX.

PIOCHE, NEV., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1879.

NO. 15

THE BREFFOLE MINE.

Every person who lived in Eastern
Nevada from 1863 until 1869, have heard
of the wonderful Breyfogle mine which
was supposed to exist somewhere in the
vicinity of Death Valley. Many yet
believe in its existence, and parties are
to this day searching for this Will o'-the-
wisp. A correspondent of the Esmeralda
Herald explores the myth by the follow-
ing account of the origin of the report,
the particulars of which he procured
from one of the principal parties, who is
now ranching on the upper San Pedro
river. The writer who was living in
Austin at the time, remembers some of
the minor incidents referred to.

"During the earlier years of the late
war, a party of men organized in West-
ern Nevada for the purpose of going
South to join the Confederate forces by
crossing through Arizona and New Mexi-
co into Texas. Their route lay to the
southeast—they intending to cross the
Colorado somewhere to the northward of
Fort Mojave. While traveling south of
Austin, Nevada, the party attracted the
attention of a prospector who was work-
ing in one of the mining camps of that
region; and as every party or person not
announcing their destination or intention
in those days were suspected of having
some 'good thing,' or new discovery in
view, and this prospector being fully
alive to the importance of following on
their trail and coming in for a share in
the supposed new discovery, started in
the wake. Now, in those days parties
going to Dixie were closely watched by
United States soldiers stationed at the
different military posts; and as Show-
alter and his party had been recently
captured and incarcerated in Fort Yuma,
parties were very careful to see that their
destination was not found out, and that
there were no spies on their track from
Fort Churchill. It was not long before
they discovered that this prospector was
following them, and they accordingly
watched him closely for some days. At
length one of the party dropped behind
to interview the person who was dogging
their trail, to find out if possible his
object. Concealing himself, while the
other members of the party went ahead,
he awaited the coming of the follower.

When accosted and asked the reason of
his course, the prospector frankly stated
his object, that seeing they were well
equipped and well mounted, he had con-
cluded that they had something rich in
view and wished to come in for what he
could after they had made their locations.
The man who had been an old prospector
himself saw at once the true state of
affairs, and having some rich pieces of
rock with him that he had procured in
California, told him that the specimens
came from a lead they were going to
locate, and pointing to a saddle or de-
pression in a range of mountains a long
way off to the south, he told him on the
western slope of that mountain the mine
was situated, and that it was large and
very rich; but that under no circum-
stances must he again be seen upon their
trail, as his companions were very jeal-
ous of outside interference and it would
be very dangerous for him. The new
greatly excited prospector, it is supposed,
returned to his camp, and showing the
rich rock to his companions, made im-
mediate preparations to hunt for the
fabulous mine. How that hunt was con-
tinued for many months and years, and
the hardships sufferings and privations
of many of the deluded prospectors led
on by this story, has become a part of
the history of Southern Nevada. This man
was Breyfogle. Mr. Breyfogle used the
information he obtained for his own ad-
vantage in getting credulous and excitable
persons in Los Angeles and elsewhere to
fit up costly expeditions to search for
this hidden treasure that never had an
existence. There are in the vicinity of
this saddle which was pointed out in the
mountain, some large ledges but the ores
are base in character and carry but a
small percentage of gold and silver. That
section of country was thoroughly
searched about three years ago by a
party of experienced prospectors from
Panama, and nothing was found that
would warrant any great expenditure of
labor or money. So ended what we
believe to be the true story of the long
sought but never found Breyfogle myth."

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